

# OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

837 Bartlett Road • Harborcreek, PA 16421 • [www.ourladyofmercychurch.org](http://www.ourladyofmercychurch.org)



## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 6:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Weekday: 8:30 a.m.

Holy Day of Obligation: 8:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

## PARISH STAFF

Msgr. Gerald T. Ritchie, *Pastor*

Donna Clark, *Pastoral Minister*

Irene Lucas, *Director of Lifelong Faith Formation*

Brandon Vogt, *Director of Liturgy & Music*

Katie Stephenson, *Administrative Assistant*

Geri Hadlock, *Youth Minister*

Kirk Mientkiewicz, *Maintenance Coordinator*

Andrea Maille, *Lifelong Faith Formation Secretary*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

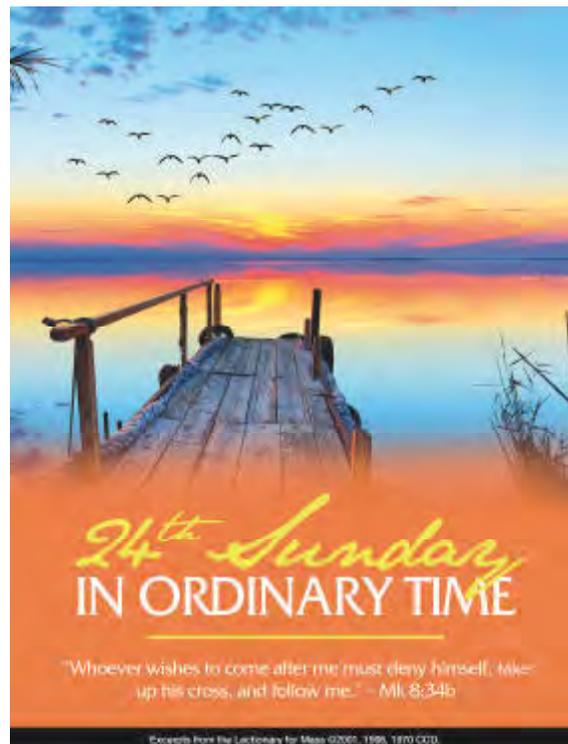
Parish Office: 814-899-5342

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation: 814-899-6132

Fax: 814-898-3306

Email: [info@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:info@ourladyofmercychurch.org)

September 16, 2018



## MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a Eucharistic, Catholic Christian Community of Communities formed by the Word of God and the teachings of the Church.  
We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live the values of Jesus Christ in a prayerful, welcoming and nurturing environment.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

For a complete calendar of events, please visit [ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar](http://ourladyofmercychurch.org/calendar)

<b>Mon. 09/17</b>	7:00 p.m.	Grief Support Group
<b>Tue. 09/18</b>	2:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	4:00 p.m.	Religious Ed. Gr. 3-6
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Core Team Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Life Long Faith Formation Meeting
	7:30 p.m.	AA Meeting
<b>Wed. 09/19</b>	8:30 a.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
	12:30 p.m.	Ladies Outing
	6:30 p.m.	AGIFT Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	OLM Book Group
<b>Thur. 09/20</b>	3:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl
	6:45 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Fri. 09/21</b>	12:00 p.m.	Dance Set-Up
	1:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
<b>Sat. 09/22</b>	10:00 a.m.	AA Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	2nd Annual Dance with The Groove
<b>Sun. 09/23</b>	<b>FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MERCY</b>	
	10:30 a.m.	Feast Day Mass

### PRAYER LINE

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Call **Donna Smicker** at 899-9108

4:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Call **Gerri Extein** at 899-6875

The **Hospital Visitor** for the week is **Marilyn Garwig**.



### Outreach Ministries Sign up

If you are interested in joining one of the outreach ministries please see the display in the gathering space. These ministries are

- Casserole Club
- Dresses for Missions
- Sister Parish Committee
- Cursillo Parish Coordinator
- Ella Cochran Food Pantry
- Social Justice Committee
- Praying for the Parish

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Mon. 09/17</b>	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
<b>Tue. 09/18</b>	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
<b>Wed. 09/19</b>	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
<b>Thur. 09/20</b>	8:30 a.m.	Communion service
<b>Fri. 09/21</b>	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
<b>Sat. 09/22</b>	8:30 a.m.	Communion Service
	6:00 p.m.	-NO MASS-
<b>Sun. 09/23</b>	10:30 a.m.	For the People of OLM

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

<b>Mon. 09/17</b>	1 Cor 11:17-26, 33	/ Luke 7:1-10
<b>Tue. 09/18</b>	1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31	/ Luke 7:11-17
<b>Wed. 09/19</b>	1 Cor 12:31-13:13	/ Luke 7:31-35
<b>Thur. 09/20</b>	1 Cor 15:1-11	/ Luke 7:36-50
<b>Fri. 09/21</b>	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13	/ Matthew 9:9-13
<b>Sat. 09/22</b>	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49	/ Luke 8:4-15
<b>Sun. 09/23</b>	Wis 2:12, 17-20/ Jas 3:16-4:3/ Mark 9:30-37	



# PARISH FEAST DAY

### Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

Next Sunday is our Parish Feast Day. It is an opportunity for all parishioners, no matter which Mass they usually go to, to come together, enjoy one another and celebrate. The only Mass next weekend will be at 10:30 a.m. followed by our buffet dinner. On Saturday evening the Parish will celebrate with a Dance featuring The Groove.

### Feast Day Kitchen Helpers

We need a number of people to work for about an hour in the kitchen or hall for our **Feast Day on Sept 23rd**. People can help Saturday for set up, Sunday before Mass to receive food and then put it out on the serving tables after Mass or clean up after lunch. Each shift should be about an hour. See the sign up in the Gathering Space. Or contact **Donna Clark**.

### Knights of Columbus Dance



The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a dance **Saturday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>** in conjunction with the OLM Feast Day weekend. The band "The Groove" Eries most popular band will be providing the entertainment from 7 to 11 in the gym. Complimentary beer and setups will be provided. Tickets will go on sale in the Gathering Space after all the masses beginning on August 12th and thru Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, or until sold out. Tickets are limited to 250. Last year we were sold out, so purchase your tickets early. Tickets will also be available for purchase during the week in the parish office. Ticket price is \$15 or (2) for \$25. Co-Chairs Frank Kaleta and Phil Legler.

### THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION



#### Mark 8:27-35

How often we fail to see the suffering of people around us. We shut our ears, refusing to listen to their anguished pleas. The prophet Isaiah was able to speak God's words only because he first listened. Hearing also implies obeying. Isaiah paid a price for answering God's call, yet he did not rebel or turn back. He knew that God would not allow him to be put to shame.

James challenges us to hear and obey God's voice in the cries of our suffering brothers and sisters. "What good is it to profess your faith without practicing it?" he asks. Faith and works are not mutually exclusive. "Show me your faith apart from your works," James demands, "and I by my works will show you my faith."

As Jesus's disciples, we have seen his works and heard his words. But do we really understand who he is and what his message contains? Peter speaks decisively, "You are the Messiah," and then just as quickly shows that he has misunderstood. We are judging by the world's standards if we think that one is fully revealed on the cross. Like the master, the servant must take up the cross so that the world can see and hear the good news of the gospel.

*For Reflection: In what ways is my faith demonstrated in the work that I do?*



## Social Justice Committee News

### Labor

In September we will present excerpts from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops 2018 Labor Day statement. Every worker has a right to a just wage according to the criterion of justice, which St. John XXIII described as wages that "give the worker and his family a standard of living in keeping with the dignity of the human person".

How are we as Christians, who are members of society, called to respond to the question of wages and justice? First, we are called to live justly in our own lives whether as business owners or workers. Secondly, we are called to stand in solidarity with our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters. Lastly, we should all work to reform and build a more just society, one which promotes human life and dignity and the common good of all.

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**QUESTION OF THE WEEK WINNER**

The Question-of-the-Week Winner for the week of September 4 was **Sadie Lander**, Gr. 4, who knew that God created light on the first day of creation.



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**#ThinkAboutItOLM**

This week's Social Media "Think About It" is: **What is your favorite fall time activity?**

Share your answer on social media and don't forget to add the OFFICIAL OUR LADY OF MERCY HASHTAG: #ThinkAboutItOLM so we can all stay connected. Also, be on the lookout for #ThinkAboutItOLM painted rocks! The Religious Education families have been busy painting their first week back to class. If you find one in the community, snap a picture, share it on your social media page and add #ThinkAboutItOLM to your post.

### Grief Support

On **Monday, September 17 at 7pm**, we host a monthly grief support group. The journey through grief can be confusing and frustrating. Nothing seems normal. Sometimes talking about it helps, especially when sharing with people who can understand. For more information, **contact Donna Clark** in the parish office.

### Need to Slow Down?

Consider learning about the relaxation techniques that are associated with meditation. Instruction will be giving on **Wednesday October 3 at 7pm**. We will cover a series of relaxation methods that can be used before quiet prayer. These also work during times of stress or other agitation. Then for those who wish we will have a 20 minute meditation session with instruction.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Offertory for the weekend of **September 9, 2018**

Envelopes sent:	392	
Envelopes returned:	105	\$3,953.00
Faith Direct Deposits:	118	\$3,122.00
Loose Change:		\$ 201.00
<b>TOTAL OFFERTORY:</b>		<b>\$7,276.00</b>

## Special Thanks

The family of Leona Stankiewicz wishes to thank everyone who gave us support in prayer, cards, food, and help of any kind during my mom's recent illness and passing. We really appreciated all that you did for us. Our Lady of Mercy parish is truly a wonderful community that we are blessed to call home.

Thank you so much,  
Karen Sweeney

## Ministry Recommitment and Showcase Oct 13 & 14

During Mass on the weekend of October 13 & 14, everyone will have an opportunity to recommit to their current ministries or join a new ministry. On this weekend we will have a recommitment ceremony. We ask everyone, starting Sept 30, to check the ministry lists displayed in the Gathering Space and verify the ministries you are involved in. If you are retiring from a ministry, this is one way to let us know. After Mass we will have a Ministry Showcase in Sperry Hall. There you can sign up for a new ministry. These ministries are looking for new people to join them. Start now in prayer to discern how best to use your gifts. At any time you can contact your ministry leader to make a change or contact **Donna Clark** in the parish office. 899-5342.

## Book Group

Another school year is beginning. Kids are once again cracking open those books. It's a great time to crack open your own book, only now you get to pick the title you want to read. And, you get to discuss that book with a glass of wine and some great ladies. This is a season of beginnings, a perfect time to try something new. Consider giving the OLM Book Group a try. There is no need to commit; come as often as you wish. On **Sept. 19**, we will gather at the home of Irene Lucas 1019 Bartlett Rd. to discuss Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History Making Race Around the World by Matthew Goodman. For those that want to read ahead, our October book will be The Rent Collector by Camron Wright.



## Counseling for Abuse

If you or someone you know is in need of counseling, you may contact our parish counselor, Paula DeDionisio, directly at 814-722-8805. Paula is a trained professional counselor specializing in trauma. Counseling assistance is also available for victims and/or their families through the diocesan victim assistance coordinator, Dr. Robert Nelson at 814-451-1521. You may approach any member of the staff of Our Lady of Mercy who will assist you in finding the appropriate help. Victims or concerned individuals can report abuse to the independent investigators retained by the Dioceses of Erie: [ErieRCD@KLGates.com](mailto:ErieRCD@KLGates.com). People are also welcome to contact the diocese directly at 814-451-1543 or call the PA ChildLine at 800-932-0313.

## Men's Night Out Event

To all men of the Parish: Our next Men's Night Out Event will be **Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup>** in Sperry Hall. Our featured speaker for the evening will be our very own John Reilly. John is the head Coach of the Gannon Knights Men's Basketball Program. His talk will center on what drives his passion for his faith and his passion for the Game. We will start with dinner at 6:00pm followed by John's talk at 7:00pm. Food and beverages will be supplied. All we ask is your generous free will offering. More information will be available at next weekend's Masses. For now, save the date, invite your friends and family and be there on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

## Harvest Fest

Our annual Harvest Fest will take place **Sunday, Oct. 7 from noon to 2:00 PM.**

There will be a feast of homemade soups, crafts and games for the children, a day to celebrate the blessings of the season. We need people willing to make and donate a crockpot of soup for our feast. Sign-up lists for soup are in the Gathering Space. Thank you in advance.



## 24th Annual Rosary March

Fatima's 101 year anniversary, **Sunday October 14, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** at the St. Peter Cathedral on 10th and Sassafras. Please come join us and pray the Rosary. Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima. For those unable to march, the Rosary will be recited in the Cathedral while the March is taking place. For more information, please call **John Walsh at 868-1100.**



# Local Church Fall Events

## Spaghetti Dinner

**Sunday, September 30, 2018 from noon - 6p.m.** at the Saint George School Cafeteria, sponsored by Knights of Columbus. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 years and children under 5 are free. Take out is available. Tickets are available at the rectory office and from K of C members. For more information, call **St. George Rectory at 814-864-0622.**

## Sacred Heart Fall Fest

**October 7th 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

Enjoy a fun day of food, fellowship, and activities for all ages! A varied menu will be offered featuring the famous Chiavetta's BBQ Half Chicken Dinner cooked on the premises. The ever-popular Sacred Heart Theme Baskets Raffle will certainly be a highlight. A Grand Prize Drawing of \$5,000 with five additional \$500 Prizes will be awarded! Tickets can be purchase in advance or at the door. Other prize raffles include: 10' Lifetime Zenith Kayak with a Field and Stream Chute paddle, 55" Samsung Curved LED 4K Ultra HDTV (1st prize) a 32" Samsung LED Smart HDTV (2nd prize), and men's golf clubs and women's driver - professionally hand crafted by Phil Temple. There will be a selection of beverages as well as games for children and adults. For more information call **456-6256.**

## Saint Stanislaus Parish Day

St. Stanislaus Parish, is hosting their Annual Parish Day on **Sunday, October 7, 2018, from Noon-5:00 p.m.** A delicious "Polish Platter Dinner" will be served. Cost for adults-\$11; Children (6-12) - \$5; and children under 5-free. All festivities take place in the Parish Hall located at 520 East 13 Street. There will be special awards, fresh baked goods, a Chinese auction, theme baskets, raffles and children's games, fun for all ages. A fun afternoon to get together with your family and friends. All proceeds benefit the parish.

## Blessed Sacrament Fall Festival

**Sunday, September 16th from Noon - 5:00PM**

Children and adult games, bake sale, and a theme basket raffle! \$500 Drawing every half hour from 12:30pm to 3:00pm! At 3:30pm \$1,500...4:00pm \$2,500...4:30pm \$3,000! GRAND PRIZE

DRAWING \$5,000 at 5:00pm! \$50. Additional prize if winner is present. Tickets are \$5 each. Flu Shots available Noon - 4pm. Blood Mobile available Noon - 3:00pm.



## Story Time

There is something new for pre-school children and their parents! It is our Wednesday morning Story Time: music, games activities, snack and stories guarantee a fun-filled hour for all. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday mornings at 9:30 under the skylight in the classroom area. All are welcome. Bring a friend. There is no cost.

**Our next session is September 26th.**



## Children's Liturgy of the Word

There has been a request to have Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 8:30 Mass. We can only make this possible if we have 4 volunteer leaders willing to be on a rotating schedule. If you are interested in being part of this ministry at the 8:30 Mass, **contact Irene to learn more at 899-6132 or [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org).**

## Baptismal Preparation Session

Our next session for parents and godparents will be **Sunday, Oct. 21 at 12:15** in the Conference Room. If you have or are expecting a baby and hope to celebrate baptism with the child in the next 6 months, you need to attend a preparation session. To register for this class, **call the Parish Office at 899-5342.**



## Confirmation Prayer Pals

Last weekend, you received a bulletin insert featuring our youth preparing to celebrate Confirmation. You were asked to hold one particular candidate in prayer in a special way in the coming weeks. Don't forget to reach out to this youth with a word of encouragement or a note of support.

## Bar Stools for Food Pantry



The Food pantry is looking for a few bar stools for its new counter high reception desk. If you have some stools that are gathering dust that you are willing to part with please contact Donna Clark. We are nearing the end of the second phase of our remodel. When we are finished, we will have an open house.

## Offering of Letters

On the weekend of **Sept. 29-30**, Our Lady of Mercy will participate in the Bread for the World annual Offering of Letters Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to encourage Congress to fully fund nutrition programs that alleviate hunger as they make the 2019 budget. For the first time since the turn of the century, the hunger rate increased in 2016. 815 million people live in hunger, of these 13 million children are children living in the U.S. Our voices are needed to advocate for the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers. Each member of the community is asked to bring a personalized letter addressed to your Senators or Congressman. These letters will be part of our Procession of Gifts, our offering of our political power as citizens on behalf of the Gospel. More details about this campaign can be found on the parish website.

## Hair Care Done in Your Home

Specializing in seniors and disabled, Annette will come to your home. She can do perms, shampoo and sets, haircuts, manicures, coloring and barbering. For more information or to get in touch with **Annette please call 814-616-6946.** Annette recently moved back to Erie and joined Our Lady of Mercy.

## Ladies' Outing

Join us for a trip to the Straw Hat in North East. This is a social event for women who live alone. Meet at the church at **12:30pm on Wednesday Sept 19.**



# We Want To Stay In Touch

August brings new addresses for many young people as they head off to college, enlist in the military or begin internships. The parish wants to keep in touch with our young people who are living away from home for a few years. If you are headed to campus, the military or an internship this fall (or if you are the parent of a young person making this move), please share your new contact info with us. Complete the following form and return it to the parish: drop it into the collection basket, mail it to the parish, email the info to [ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org](mailto:ilucas@ourladyofmercychurch.org). We don't care how you get it to us; we just want to be able to stay in touch.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## HARVEST FEST. 2018

Join us Sunday October 7th, 2018 from  
noon to 2:00p.m. in Sperry Hall for our  
annual Harvest Fest!

Please sign-up in the Gathering Space  
next weekend to bring a crockpot of  
soup!

Kid  
Games

Homemade  
Soups

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